



MONTGOMERY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT-WIDE FACILITY STUDY

CRA Project No. 3545

In Attendance:

Tony Wright., School Board President
Paul Stryker Jr., School Board Member
John DeSantis, School Board Member
Gary Yocum, School Board Member
Daphne Bowers, Superintendent
Grant Evangelisti, Business Manager
James Brecht, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Joe Stoudt, High School Principal
Karen Snyder, Elementary Principal
Jason Ottman
Daniel Hugar
Brad Harding
Brett Taylor
Scott Cousin, Principal/Senior Project Manager

Representing

Montgomery Area School District (MASD)
Montgomery Area School District
Montgomery Area School District
Montgomery Area School District
Montgomery Area School District
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Montgomery Area School District
Montgomery Area School District
Montgomery Area School District
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates (CRA)

On the above date at 5:00 pm, a meeting was held at the administrative offices of the Montgomery Area School District to kick-off the district-wide facility study. The following represents the writers understanding of the issues and pertinent items of discussion at the meeting.

Guiding Principles

1. A list of Guiding Principles was established by the administrative team based on the sticky notes filled out by the steering committee at the last meeting. The following principles were reviewed and agreed upon.
 - 1) The design and location of educational facilities will be the result of a comprehensive planning process, with expenditures aligned with our financial resources.
 - 2) The educational facilities will provide a comfortable, stimulating learning environment that is conducive to collaboration, meets the diverse learning styles of individual students, and supports an equal educational opportunity for all.
 - 3) The educational facilities will respond to current, and future information, communication and technology needs that will empower staff to deliver a high quality rigorous instructional program blended for the needs of all students.
 - 4) The educational facilities will support community use and educational partnerships with local business and industry.
 - 5) The educational facilities will be inspirational in design features that cultivate the critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity of our students.
 - 6) The educational facilities will allow space to encourage academic, athletic and social/emotional growth of our students.
 - 7) The District facilities will be adaptable to future demographic, educational, and community needs.

2. A discussion was held about prioritizing the principles. #1 and #6 were important to the group. A future survey may be held to gather more input.

Existing Student Capacity

3. The student capacity based on PDE guidelines was reviewed. It was noted the utilization rates should be lowered due to the small student body. The capacity are as follows:

Elementary

Educational Capacity - 650
Functional Capacity (85% Utilization) – 553
Current Enrollment – 541

Secondary

Educational Capacity - 770
Functional Capacity (75% Utilization) – 578
Current Enrollment - 410

4. At the elementary level, capacity accounts for general education classrooms only and does not factor in needs for other educational spaces such as specials, special education and learning support.
5. It was noted at the secondary level there are more inefficiencies in the capacity calculation due to scheduling, smaller class sizes for specialized subjects (ie. tech ed) and not all classrooms being occupied for all periods of the day (ie gym).

Projected Student Enrollment

6. The history of enrollment within the district has varied and have a greater margin of error due to the small student body. When averaging the ups and downs, there been a slight downward trend.
7. Enrollment projections were conducted by analyzing PDE projections and 3- and 5-year historical trend (prior to COVID). Projections further than 5 years into the future are not reliable and should not be used.
8. Overall, the Montgomery Area School District is projected to have a stable enrollment pattern over the next five years which will not impact building capacity.
9. The potential housing was reviewed and determined not to a significant impact to the enrolment based on the information available at this time. It was noted that many of the acres within the district are not developable into home communities due to easement restrictions.
10. There is no data correlating jobs within the district to student enrollment, therefore the impact of new facilities creating jobs within the district was not analyzed.

Educational & Functional Deficiencies

11. The educational and functional deficiencies were reviewed:

ELEMENTARY

- No dedicated classroom for STEM
- No common collaboration space
- No individual small group spaces for instructional support (shared room)
- Special education classroom undersized
- Life skills lab needed
- No safe room
- Music and Art Classrooms undersized
- Classroom furniture does not align with educational delivery
- Elementary students intermix with secondary students
- No hard surface play area
- Playground severely undersized
- One multipurpose room for Gym & Lunch (schedule space in HS)
- Lacking adequate power for charging of devices and other needs
- 6th grade not located with other Elementary Grades
- Music and Art not located with Elementary Grades
- Sensory room not adjacent to emotional support
- Storage inadequate
- No common toilet rooms in classroom wings
- No dedicated offices for itinerant support staff (OP/PT, Speech, Early intervention, mental health, etc.)
- No conference/meeting space.
- Administrative offices too small
- Faculty room too small for dining and planning/meetings

SECONDARY

- Inadequate space and amenities for Tech Ed programs
- No common collaboration space
- Health Classroom undersized
- Library undersized (portion shared with Elementary)
- Science labs are outdated and undersized
- No outdoor learning space
- No space for supplemental learning support
- No sensory classroom or safe room
- No space for Emotional Support
- Life skills activity suite needed
- Classroom furniture does not align with educational delivery
- No weight/fitness room available for Phys. Ed., outdoor field space lacking
- Secondary students intermix with elementary students
- Middle And High use same STEM space
- Storage space inadequate
- SRO not centrally located
- Lacking adequate power for charging of devices and other needs
- Stage rigging outdated

- Toilet facility inadequate
- Lacking adequate space for cafeteria serving
- Cafeteria undersized
- Kitchen undersized and equipment outdated
- No conference/meeting space
- Counselor Offices undersized
- Faculty room too small for dining and planning/meetings

ATHLETICS

- Wrestling room undersized
- Locker rooms at HS undersized
- Need individual showers
- No trainers room at High School
- Athletic amenities separate from Jr./Sr. High School
- Track surface inadequate
- No area for team meetings/film review
- HS Concessions undersized
- No ticket booth at HS or MAACC

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAL

- Space for deliveries/loading inadequate
- Custodial storage inadequate
- Maintenance and outdoor equipment storage inadequate

TRANSPORTATION

- Inadequate space for bus circulation
- Inadequate space for parent drop-off/pick-up (unsafe)
- Staff and event parking inadequate

TECHNOLOGY

- Not all classrooms have interactive teaching technology
- No dedicated closets for IT equipment/servers

Upcoming Meetings

12. The next Steering Committee meeting will focus on existing building conditions and the cost to upgrade the existing conditions to current standards. This will complete the needs assessment portion of the study. The development of options will follow.
13. A virtual tour of State college high School will be conducted at the next steering committee. In person tours of other schools with the steering committee will occur in the future.
14. A public engagement will occur to convey the needs assessment portion of the study.

The above represents the writer's understanding of the issues discussed. Any misrepresentations or miscommunications in these minutes should be conveyed to Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates within five (5) days receipt of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Cousin, AIA, LEED AP®
Principal | Senior Project Manager
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Cc: Meeting Attendees